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HISTORICAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

LETTER OF RICHARD HENRY LEE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 1, 1776.

Mr. Maxwell,

Sir, The congress having resolved immediately to undertake the building of two Ships of War of 36 guns each, in Virginia, I am directed by the Marine Committee to apply to some proper persons in that State to superintend the business. You, Sir, have been recommended so strongly to me by Gen. Stephen and others, as a person of great fitness for this business, and not doubting but that you may comply with this, altho you are the same way employed by our Government, I do, in the name of that Committee request you will, taking the advice of the Navy board in Virginia, determine on the most safe, and in other respects most fit place or places to put these Ships upon the Stocks at. Safety against the enemy is a very necessary object, and proper water for Launching. Convenience for getting proper timber you will consider. I suppose it will be no objection if both these Vessels are put upon the Stocks at the same place, but in determining on the place or places, not private or local, but public considerations alone are to govern. A Master Builder with 4 or 6 Workmen will soon go from hence to Virginia for this business, and I have no doubt but a sufficiency of other workmen will be to be had in that State to carry on the work briskly. The Builder desires that the Trees may be immediately felled whilst the Sap is down, that a quantity of Locust Trunnels be split $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and in length, from 18 to 30 inches. That Sawyers be employed to get up plank (White oak), of $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. These things, and whatever else may be immediately necessary for the right pursuit of this business, you will take care to have done, and your drafts for the expence created by the same, on the chairman of the Marine Committee of Congress shall be duly honored. One or more Associates will be joined with you in this Agency, but for the present, you will singly do what is necessary, and for your trouble you will be liberally compensated by Congress. The Board of Assistants are directed to prepare a proper draught of these ships, which shall be forwarded to you when ready. Let me have your answer to this letter by return of Post.

I am Sir, your most humble Servant,

RICHARD HENRY LEE.

P. S. The Builder tells me that Cedar, Locust, Pitch Pine, or Wild Cherrytree, will be the proper timber for upper works.

A PROCLAMACON BY THE COMAND'R AND COMISSION'RS OF
ACCOMACKE.

[Communicated by T. T. Upshur, Esq.]

Mense, Decemb'r, Ano, 1649.

Whereas it hath pleased Almighty God to suffer us to bee deprived of our Late Dread Sovraigne, of blessed memorys, Wee, the Comand'r & Comission'rs of Accomacke, doe by these pr'sents p'claime Charles the undoubted heyre of our late Sov'raigne of blessed memory, to bee Kinge of England, Scotland, ffrance, Ireland, Virginia and all other remote provinces & collonys, New England and the Caribda Islands, And all other hereditam'ts and indowm'ts belonging unto our late Sovraigne of blessed memory. Willinge and requiringe all his Ma'ties liege people to acknowledge their alledgiance and w'th gen'rall Consent & applause pray God to blesse Charles the Second, Kinge of England, Scotland, ffrance & Ireland, Virginnia, New England, ye Cariba Islands And all other provinces & Subjects to the English Crowne. And soe God Save Kinge Charles ye Second—Amen, Amen, Amen.

Record ab'r pinno die mensis ffebur., Ano, 1649.

p me, EDM. MATHEWES, Cler. Cur.

NOTE BY T. T. U.—The date at the top of this instrument looks more like 1641 than 1649, but as recorded 1649 I have written 1649.

PUBLIC OFFICERS, 1781.

(COMPILED BY R. S. THOMAS, ESQ.)

Delegates who represent the State of Virginia in Continental Congress.
James Madison, Edmund Randolph, Joseph Jones, Theodorick Bland and Arthur Lee, Esquires.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

Governor, or Chief Magistrate—His Excellency, Benjamin Harrison, Esquire.

Members of the Privy Council—Samuel Hardy, Lieut.-Governor, Beverly Randolph, Thomas Lomax, Sampson Mathews, John Banister, James Munro, Meriwether Smith, Robert Lawson, Esquires.

Speaker of the Hon. House of Senators—Archibald Cary, Esquire.

Speaker of the Hon. House of Delegates—John Tyler, Esquire.

Treasurer of the State—Jacquelin Ambler, Esquire.

Attorney-General—Edmund Randolph, Esquire.

Judges of the High Court of Chancery—Edmund Pendleton, George Wythe & John Blair, Esquires.

Judges of the General Court—Paul Carrington, Bartholomew Dandridge, Peter Lyons & William Fleming, Esquires.

Judges of the Court of Admiralty—Benjamin Waller, Richard Cary & James Henry, Esquires.

Auditors of Public Accounts—Harrison Randolph, Bolling Starke & John Boush, Esquires.

House of Delegates.

Accomack—Abraham Oulten, Thomas Parramore.
 Albemarle—Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Walker.
 Amelia—John Tabb, Everard Meade.
 Amherst—Hugh Rolfe, William Cabell.
 Augusta—Zachariah Johnson, John Cunningham.
 Bedford—John Talbot, Robert Clarke.
 Berkley—Adam Stephen, Dolphin Drew.
 Botetourt—Thomas Madison, Thomas Lewis.
 Brunswick—Frederick Maclin, William Stith.
 Buckingham—Charles Patteson, Thomas Anderson.
 Campbell—Robert Adams, Jr., William Browne.
 Caroline—Robert Gilchrist, John Page, Jr.
 Charles City—John Tyler, William Green Munford.
 Charlotte—Joel Watkins, James Speed.
 Chesterfield—Francis Goode, William Smith.
 Cumberland—Henry Skipwith, Carter H. Harrison.
 Culpeper—Henry Field, French Strother.
 Dinwiddie—Robert Bolling.
 Elizabeth City—George Wray, George Booker.
 Essex—John Edmondson.
 Fairfax—Alexander Henderson, Charles Broadwater.
 Fauquier—John Marshall, William Picken.
 Fluvanna—David Ross, George Thompson.
 Frederick—Alexander White, Charles M. Thruston.
 Fayette—Robert Johnson, John Mosby.
 Gloucester—John Page, Thomas Smith.
 Goochland—John Skelton, John Payne.
 Green Brier—James Reid, George Clindiner.
 Greensville—Edmund Wilkins, James Mason.
 Halifax—John Coleman, Walker Daniel.
 Hampshire—Elias Poston, Abraham Hilt.
 Hanover—Nelson Anderson, Jr., Parke Goodall.
 Henrico—Turner Southall, Nathaniel Wilkinson.
 Henry—Patrick Henry, Peter Saunders.
 James City—Nathaniel Burwell, William Norvell.
 Isle of Wight—Josiah Parker, John Scarsbrook Wells.
 Jefferson—John May, Squire Boon.
 King & Queen—James Henry, Thomas Roane.
 King George—George Fitzhugh.

King William—Holt Richeson, Bernard Moore.
 Lancaster—James Gordon, Edwin Conway.
 Loudon—Francis Peyton, John Carter.
 Louisa—William White, William DuVall.
 Lunenburg—Henry Stoke, Sylvanus Walker.
 Lincoln—John Edwards, Isaac Hite.
 Mecklenburg—William Randolph, Samuel Dedman.
 Middlesex—Thomas Moore, Simon Fraser.
 Monongalia—
 Montgomery—Robert Sayere, Jesse Evans.
 Nansemond—Kinchin Godwin, Wills Cowper.
 New Kent—John Watkins, William Dandridge.
 Norfolk—Thomas Newton, Jr., Thomas Mathews.
 Northampton—Michael Christian, John Bowdoin.
 Northumberland—John Hull, John Heath.
 Ohio—
 Orange—Benjamin Porter, Benjamin Hayley.
 Pittsylvania—John Wilson. Constant Perkins.
 Powhatan—William Ronald, Littlebury Mosby.
 Prince Edward—John Holcombe.
 Prince George—Edmund Ruffin, Jr., Nat. Harrison.
 Princess Anne—William Robinson, Thomas Walke.
 Prince William—Arthur Lee, Lynangh Helm.
 Richmond—Robert W. Carter, James Gordon, Jr.
 Rockbridge—
 Rockingham—George Huston, William Nalle.
 Shenandoah—Isaac Zane, Taverner Beale.
 Southampton—John Rogers, John Tayler.
 Spottsylvania—Mann Page, Thomas Towles.
 Stafford—Charles Carter, John F. Mercer.
 Surrey—James Key, Richard Cocke.
 Sussex—David Mason, Michael Bailey.
 Warwick—
 Westmoreland—Richard Henry Lee, Richard Lee.
 Washington—Arthur Campbell, David Campbell.
 Yogobaria—
 York—Thomas Nelson, Jr., Joseph H. Prentis.
 Williamsburg—Henry Tazewell.
 Norfolk Borough—John Hutchings.

LETTER OF MRS. NATHANIEL BACON.

The following letter, written by the wife of Bacon, was first printed by Dr. Eggleston in his interesting sketch of Bacon in the *Century*. It is worthy of republication in our pages in continuation of the Bacon series of papers printed in this Magazine.

A Copy of Mrs. Bacon's letter, the wife of Nathaniel Bacon, in Virginia June 29th, 1676, sent to her sister and received the 26th September, 1676, concerning a murder committed by the Indians.

Deare Sister:

I pray God keep the worst enemy I have from ever being in such a sad condition as I have been in since my former to the ———, occasioned by ye troublesome Indians who have killed one of our overseers at an outward plantation which we had, and we have lost a great stock of cattle which we had upon it, and a good cargo that we should have made there, which plantation nobody durst come nigh which is a very great loss to us. If you had been here it would have grieved your heart to hear the pitiful complaints of the people—the Indians killing the people daily and the Governor not taking any notice of for to hinder them, but let them daily do all the mischief they can. I am sure if the Indians were not cowards they might have destroyed all the upper plantations and killed all the people upon them. The Governor so much their friend that he would not suffer any one to hurt any of the Indians, and the poor people came to your brother to desire him to help them against the Indians, and he being very much concerned for the loss of his overseer and for the loss of so many poor men and women and children's lives every day, he was willing to do them all the good he could; so he begged of the Governor for a commission in several letters to him, that he might go out against them, but he would not grant one. So daily more mischief done by them, so your brother not able to endure any longer, he went out without a commission. The Governor being very angry with him, put out high things against him and told me that he would certainly hang him as soon as he returned, which he would certainly have done, but what for fear of the Governor hanging him, and what for fear of the Indians killing him, brought me into this sad condition, but blessed be God he came in very well with the loss of a very few men; never was known such a fight in Virginia with so few men's loss. The fight did continue a night and a day without any intermission. They did destroy a great many of the Indians, thanks bee to God, and might have killed a great many more, but the Governor were so much the Indians' friend and our enemy that he sent the Indians word that Mr. Bacon was against them that they might save themselves. After Mr. Bacon was come in he was forced to keep a guard of soldiers about his house, for the Governor would certainly have had his life taken away privately if he could have had opportunity; but all the country does so really love him, that they would not leave him alone anywhere. There was not any body against him but the Governor and a few of his great men, which have got their estates by the Governor. Surely if your brother's crime had been so great, all the country would not have been for him. You never knew any better beloved than he is. I doe verily

believe that rather than he should come to any hurt by the Governor or any body else they would most of them willingly loose their lives. The Governor has sent his lady into England with great complaints to the King against Mr. Bacon, but when Mr. Bacon's and all the people's complaints be also heard, I hope it may be very well. Since your brother came in hee hath sought to the Governor for a commission, but none would be granted him, so that the Indians have had a very good time to do more mischief. They have murdered and destroyed a great many whole families since, and the men resolving not to go under any but your brother, most of the country did rise in arms and go down to the Governor and would not stirr till he had given a commission to your brother, which hee has now done. Hee is made General of the Virginia Warr, and now I live in great fear that he should lose his life amongst them. They are come very nigh our plantation where we live.

M. E.

The following is also of interest:

Bird's relation, who lived nigh to Mrs. Bacon in Virginia, and came from thence in July last for fear of the Indians—Who saith that before ever Mr. Bacon went out against the Indians there were said to be above 200 of the English murdered by the barbarous Indians, and posts came in daily to the Governor giving notice of it and yett no course was taken to secure them till Mr. Bacon went out against them. And that her husband had three men killed by the Indians before Mr. Bacon stirred, which was made known to the Governor, who notwithstanding was so possessed to the contrary that he would not believe it to be any other than a mere pretence for to make war against the Indians, and y't ye said 3 men were alive and well and only shutt up in a chamber to make the world believe they were murdered. She further affirmed that neither Mr. Bacon nor any with him had injured any Englishmen in their persons or estates and y't ye country was generally well pleased with w't they had done, and shee believed most of the Councill also so far as they durst show it. That ye most of them with Mr. Bacon were substantial housekeepers who bore their own charges in this warre against the Indians. And y't so soon as Mr. Bacon had received his Commission from the Government he went out to ye people (as shee heard) and told y'm y't tho' hee had no power before to restrain some of their too lavish tongues, they should now find hee would make use of his power to punish any man of them severely y't should dare to speak a word against the Governor or Government.

M?

SECESSION CONVENTION.

In a letter to the Editor of this Magazine, Judge John Critcher, who had been requested by the Executive Committee of the Va. Historical

Society, to write his recollections of the Secession Convention, for filing among the Society's archives, wrote the following among other things almost equally striking:

Do you remember any account of the highly dramatic scene which occurred between G. W. Summers and Henry A. Wise, on the eve of Secession? The delegates from what is now West Virginia, were about to withdraw from the Convention and take final leave of us. Wise opened his attack upon Summers, the chief of the Seceders. It was plainly premeditated. Before he rose, I noticed his suppressed agitation. Ex.-President Tyler, who knew what was coming, turned his chair, about ten feet in front of Wise, with his back to the President of the Convention. As Wise proceeded with his arraignment of Summers, Mr. Tyler lost control of his feelings, and tears trickled freely down his cheeks. The speaker was supernaturally excited. His features were as sharp and rigid as bronze. His hair stood off from his head, as if charged with electricity. Summers sat on the left of the chair, white and pale as the wall near him. It was the most powerful display of the sort, I ever witnessed. I have heard Wendell Phillips, Beecher, Mr. Clay, Dan'l O'Connell, Lord Brougham, Sir Robert Peel, Thiers, Guizot and Lamartin, but never witnessed any display of eloquence like this, and, in this opinion Mr. Tyler concurred. I have often wished that Wise's remarks could have been preserved.

Another incident recurs to me that made its impression at the time. Soon after Col. R. E. Lee resigned from the U. S. army, and arrived in Richmond, I was one of the committee appointed to introduce him to the Convention. Whilst standing near Washington's statue, in the rotunda of the Capitol, awaiting the pleasure of the Convention, Col. Lee remarked to me: "If we succeed, will this be the last of secession? May not the Cotton States find reason to secede from us? Will the present line of separation be the permanent one?" I could only reply, that external pressure might bind us together.

JOHN CRITCHER.

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF VIRGINIA.

HARRISONBURG, VA., July 7, 1897.

Editor of Historical Magazine, &c.:

SIR,—I have a heliographic copy of the earliest newspaper ever published, certainly the oldest known German newspaper, the *Cologne Zeitung*. It has this item under the head of "Brieff aus London:"

"Letter from London says that a fleet with eight ships with many men and women and other provisions on board to make a settlement and dwellings for the Land of Virginia, arrived after many difficulties and a great misfortune at the hands of the Spaniards." The date of the news-

paper is the 18th June, 1659. Smith says that only two ships arrived and does not say a word about the conflict with the Spaniards.

JOHN E. ROLLER.

TITLE TO LEESYLVANIA.

A renewed and inclusive patent from the proprietor of the northern neck to Henry Lee for 2,000 acres, dated 25th February, 1717.

This patent recites that on the 27th of August, 1658, a tract of land containing 2,000 acres was granted to Gervase Dodson during the usurpation of Cromwell, by the Governor of Virginia. That G. Dodson assigned it to Henry Corbin, who on the 19th of October 1660, by deed, gave it to his daughter, Lettice, afterwards married to Richard Lee, by whom she had Richard, the younger; by a letter of attorney recorded in Gloucester court, authorized William Fitzhugh, of Stafford county, to convey this land to his brother, Henry Lee, which deed and power are recorded in Stafford county.

1,500 acres, part of the premises, situate in Patowmack freshes, abutting northeastwardly upon the land of Mrs. Burbage or Captain Streator, southeastwardly on Patowmack River, southwesterly on the land of Codsford and others and northwesterly into the road between two creeks, Yesowomocoe and Nyapscoe, which divide from Codsford and others and from Streator.

Richard Lee, the younger, son and heir of Lettice Lee, by his attorney, in fact, William Fitzhugh (the power dated 30th September, 1707, and recorded 24th of May, 1711, in Gloucester county), conveyed to his brother, Henry Lee, all the land in the above patent, which deed was recorded in Stafford county and is dated 11th of November, 1712, and recorded 11th of March, 1714.

Henry Lee, having obtained a renewed and inclusive patent aforesaid, devised all the tract to his son, Henry, by his will, dated July, 1746, in fee simple, who, at the time of his father's death, was a minor.

Henry Lee, last mentioned, resided upon the land in the year 1756, and thence till his death, which happened in 1787, and his will devised the whole tract, which was then known by the name of Leesylvania, to his second son, Charles, the present possessor.

Henry Lee, grandfather of Charles, received the profits by rents and cultivation of several parts of it ever since his inclusive patent.

Charles Lee's youngest son, Alfred Lee, was the last owner; he died in 1865.

ERRATA.—Page 174, fourth line from bottom, Dr. James *Crocke* should be Dr. James *Creek*; on last line, *Spark's* should be *Sparks's*.